

***Town Council Public Works Committee
May 16, 2012 at 7:15 PM
Town Council Chambers***

Present: Chairman Ed Harrington
Councilor Arthur Mathews
Councilor Kenneth DiFazio
Councilor Michael Smart

Not Present: Councilor Victor Pap

Also Present: Councilor Patrick O'Connor
Councilor Michael Molisse
Jeff Bina, Department of Public Works Director
Jeff Richards, Director of Building
Mary Ellen Schloss, Director of Conservation

Chairman Harrington called the Town Council Public Works Committee Meeting to order at 7:19 PM.

Review of Overall Drain and Roadway Repair

Chairman Harrington explained that resultant from comments at a public hearing held on infrastructure drainage issues, he requested that this issue be studied further and a referral to the Public Works Committee was made. The genesis of the meeting covers the area bounded by Pine Street to Ralph Talbot, then right onto Ralph Talbot and Oak Street to the Hingham line, bounded by the Hingham line. It was noted that this general vicinity drains into the Old Swamp River.

Chairman Harrington decided to discuss the second agenda item first.

Zero Oak Street Proposal

This area sits at the head of the drainage area at the Old Swamp River. There are three tributaries and a stream in the area which is known as Zero Oak Street. The case has been referred to the Board of Zoning Appeals, and concerns a proposal for building a house on the strip of land, which is in close proximity to the drainage section for all the neighboring homes.

Mr. Richards noted that from a historical standpoint, the applicant filed in December of 2010, in April of 2012 a new plan was submitted and the Board of Appeals ruled that it lacked sufficient frontage and a variance would be needed.

Ms. Schloss noted that Conservation is investigating the drainage issues in that area as much of it is comprised of wetlands. She noted that a notice of intent has been filed, a public hearing has continued on two occasions and she has informed the applicant that a special permit is required to build on the lot.

Review of Overall Drain and Roadway Repair

Ms. Schloss has walked the stream, there is a lot of street run-off, the wetlands are in good shape, the inlet is off of Rustic Drive, and she noted that the stream was freely flowing on her site walk. She noted two areas of concern, one, the inlet may become blocked, and two, Hickory Lane and Rustic Drive drainage issues compound the situation.

Chairman Harrington toured the area as well, is cognizant of the order of conditions and noticed much fill and building (which may not have been legally permitted), he feels this negatively impacts the balance of the environment.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding orders of conditions, notice of intent, certificate of compliance and which parties assume responsibility for compliance.

It was suggested that in order to enforce order of conditions, that access to property is imperative, and that language be included on the paperwork and/or an ordinance developed.

Mr. Bina stated that they are looking to obtain bids from contractors on the grading issues which have resulted in flooding. He explained that water will continue to drain into the same pipe, and work will take approximately one month and should relieve drainage issues in that area. His department will clean the catch basins, and remove sand in the wetlands.

Janelle Quinn of 29 Tamarack Trail asked if the town could send a letter to the Norfolk County Mosquito Control as Oak Street drainage is causing ponding and she is concerned with infestation of mosquitoes. Chairman Harrington assured her that he will investigate.

Thomas Shonbach of 35 Dacia Drive questioned if cleaning of the grate in that area is on the maintenance plan to which Mr. Bina confirmed. Mr. Shonbach complained that he has called the DPW on several occasions to clean the grate, to no avail.

It was noted by the audience that constituents are dumping debris over the fence, which ultimately blocks the grates. The committee members advised both calling the police and conservation to report these episodes.

James Howard of 45 Hickory Lane noted that the retention pond can't fill due to the grates being blocked and impressed the importance of preventative maintenance to maintain the environment.

Chairman Harrington noted that town funds are tight and he is unable to promise regular maintenance and asked that the area resident bring issues to the town's attention as they occur. If need be, Chairman Harrington will visit and take down addresses of offenders.

With no further business to attend to, Councilor DiFazio motioned to adjourn at 8:05 PM-motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Diane T. Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by Councilor Ed Harrington, Chair Public Works Committee